

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2009

The Honorable W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

We write regarding the new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood zone designations in Miami-Dade County, Florida. As a consequence of the new maps, many Miami-Dade County residents will have to obtain flood insurance for the first time or will see significant insurance policy premium increases.

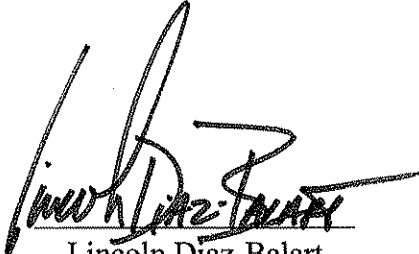
We have been informed that FEMA conducted numerous public hearings regarding the new maps; however, our offices were not aware of these hearings. In fact, many of the constituents who have contacted us were also not aware that there had been a public hearing and a comment period.

We strongly believe that our constituents must be allowed sufficient time to process individual or community flood map appeals. We are currently assisting constituents with requests for Letter of Map Amendments (LOMA) or Letter of Map Revisions-Based on Fill (LOMR-F) appeals to FEMA. In addition, several communities are in the process of filing a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) that would enable FEMA to review large areas of the new flood map.

We have worked together for many years to provide increased drainage improvements across the County. With federal and state help, many communities have been able to install pumps and construct storm drainage basins to abate the devastating effects of flooding. It is our understanding that FEMA issued the new flood maps in 2005. Accordingly, on-going (post-2005) flood mitigation work may not have been applied to the final work product of the flood designation zones.

We would like to request a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss how best to address this issue in an expeditious manner to facilitate the appeal process and prevent households from facing new, burdensome flood insurance bills. Thank you.

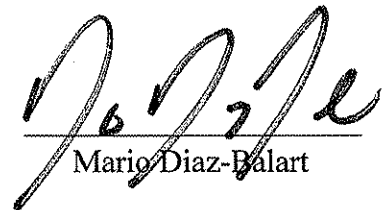
Sincerely,



Lincoln Diaz-Balart



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



Mario Diaz-Balart